

January 29, 2004

Honorable Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street,
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION OF EXPENDITURES TO ATTEND
THE AVIVA FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES 20TH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE ON CRITICAL ISSUES OF ADOLESCENCE
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

IT IS REQUESTED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Authorize expenditures in an amount not to exceed \$210.00, for up to three members of the Sybil Brand Commission on Institutional Inspections of Los Angeles County to attend the Aviva Family and Children's Services 20th Annual Conference on Critical Issues of Adolescence to be held in Studio City, CA on Thursday, February 19, 2004. These costs would be covered by funds from the Executive Office – Board of Supervisors Budget.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Annual Critical Issues of Adolescence Conference provides a forum where professionals specializing in the delivery of services to children and families can address relevant issues faced by at-risk youth today. Key topics that will be addressed include: Girl Gangs: Girls, Interrupted; Bullying and School Violence: Pirates on the Playground; and the Role of Group Homes, Residential Treatment Centers and Foster Family Agencies in the Continuum of Care for Los Angeles' Children.

The charge of the Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections, by Los Angeles County Ordinance, is to inspect institutions and group homes to ensure

that the health and safety, well being, and the needs of the children placed in these facilities are being met.

Participation at this Conference would enable Commissioners to network and learn from professionals dedicated to providing therapeutic and educational services for children. Additionally, Commissioners would have an opportunity to share information and ideas, and gain additional insight from experts specializing in the care and treatment of children and adolescents living in placement facilities.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN

Attendance of the Sybil Brand Commissioners at the Conference would conform to the County's Strategic Plan, Goal 5: Children and Families' Well-Being. This Conference would provide the Commissioners with an opportunity to participate in a forum that addresses key issues faced by children and families today, and gather a wealth of pertinent information that can assist them in understanding the needs of children in placement facilities.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The total cost for three members to attend the Conference is not to exceed \$210,000. The financing would be covered by funds from the Executive Office – Board of Supervisors' budget.

PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

None

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Montano, Vice Chair
Sybil Brand Commission on Institutional Inspections